

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :  
Nobuhiko YUI et al. :  
Serial No. NEW : **Attn: APPLICATION BRANCH**  
Filed April 22, 2004 : Attorney Docket No. 2004-0610A  
DEGRADABLE GEL AND METHOD  
FOR PRODUCING THE SAME :  
\_\_\_\_\_

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED  
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE  
FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT  
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975.

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of [X] the references listed on attached form PTO-1449 and/or [ ] the additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on the form PTO-1449 is enclosed.

1a. [X] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, **or**

before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits,

**and thus no certification and/or fee is required.**

1b.  This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted  
after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action  
or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application,  
and thus:

(1)  the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**  
(2)  the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c.  This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:  
after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which  
otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and  
thus:

**the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and**  
**the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.**

2. It is hereby certified

a.  that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement  
was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart  
foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement,  
or

b.  that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was  
cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign  
application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after  
making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c)  
more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

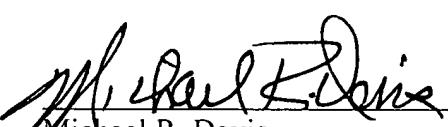
3.  Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or  
abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:
  - a.  a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,
  - b.  a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
  - c.  the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at pages 1-2,
  - d.  the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
  - e.  the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:
5.  A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.
6.  Comments:

The US '171 reference corresponds to the JP '501 reference.

Respectfully submitted,

Nobuhiko YUI et al.

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April 22, 2004

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)  
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Date Submitted to PTO: April 22, 2004

ATTY DOCKET NO.  
2004-0610ASERIAL NO.  
NEWAPPLICANT  
Nobuhiko YUI et al.FILING DATE  
April 22, 2004

GROUP

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	4,605,691	8/1986	Balazs et al.			
	AB	2002/0143171	10/2002	Yui et al.			
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	AJ	2002-356501	12/2002	Japan			
	AK	5-229934	9/1993	Japan			
	AL						
	AM						
	AN						

## OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AO	
	AP	
	AQ	
EXAMINER		DATE CONSIDERED